Numb. 12.

THE TATLER Revived.

By ISAAC BICKERSTAFF Esq;

To be Continued on MONDAYS *and* FRIDAYS.

FRIDAY, *November* 24. 1727.

WHEN I consider how many Lucubrations I have publiſhed, without employing any one of them in the Service of the Fair Sex; I muſt acknowledge myſelf very liable to their Cenſure for treating them with ſo long a Neglect. As an aggravation of my Crime, I cannot but obſerve, that ſeveral of them were the moſt forward in their Congratulations, upon my coming on the Stage again; and that I have more than once had ſeveral very uſeful Subjects recommended to me by my Female Correſpondents. I can however offer ſomething in extenuation of my Offence, and muſt now throw myſelf entirely upon the Mercy of the Ladies.

THE beſt Excuſe a Man can have for not doing a Thing, is his want of Ability to perform it. We are all very backward to acknowledge our Weakneſs; but yet, as I think any Want is more excuſable than that of Gratitude and Good Manners, I ſhall very freely own, that my not taking Notice of them before, was much leſs owing to my Want of Inclination, than to the fear of my not being able to do it, in ſo polite a manner as I ought. Tho my late long Retreat into the Regions of Silence, is a Subject I do not much like to touch upon; yet I muſt once more take it up, to skreen me from the Cenſure of the Fair Sex; and put them in mind, that how deſirous ſoever I might be of converſing with them, yet it muſt unavoidably take up no little Time to prepare myſelf for it, by a ſufficient Knowledge of the Town, and of the preſent reigning Fashions and Diverſions. To do myſelf juſtice, I have been extremely induſtrious to make myſelf Maſter of theſe neceſſary Qualifications; and to help me forward, my Friend Mr. has been ſo obliging as to give me an Hour's Lecture, to let me know how the World ſtands, and who and who are together. I muſt not forget alſo to acknowledge the kind Aſſiſtance of my Siſter *Tranquillus*, who has made me three or four very friendly Viſits; and as ſhe is a Perſon of great Intelligence, and has a Heart to communicate her Knowledge very freely to her Friends, without putting them to the uneaſy Task of asking Queſtions; ſhe has beſtow'd no little Pains upon me, to fit me for renewing my Intercourſe with the Female World. By the ſtrength of theſe Aſſiſtances I ſhall now venture to addreſs myſelf to them; and ſhall begin with inſerting a ſecond Letter that I have lately receiv'd from one of my fair Correſpondents: which I am not the more backward to publiſh, for its good-humour'd Raillery upon me, as I think it is taking ſome ſort of Shame upon myſelf, for my long Neglect of thoſe, whom all well-bred Men have ever allow'd to be the better Half of the Creation.

Dear Mr. BICKERSTAFF,

"I Sometime ago paid my Compliments to "you, upon your firſt Appearance a-"mongſt us; and have been long in hopes "that you would take us Females into your "Conſideration. But tho' I have a tolera-"ble ſhare of Patience, yet I now begin to "think that you are determin'd to have no-"thing to do with us, and will give us over "entirely to follow our own Inventions. I "could allow you to addreſs yourſelf firſt "to your Brother Scholars; but then I ima-"gin'd it would be very natural to turn "your Thoughts from thoſe who think too "much and talk too little, to us poor Crea-"tures, who you Men are apt to accuſe of "never concerning ourſelves with the Firſt, "and never ceaſing from the Latter. I ſhall "not, however, quite deſpair, but that you "may at laſt remember us: and therefore

"when

" when you have quite done with talking of " yourſelf, and have nothing that is more " material before you; I recommend the " preſent Diverſions and Entertainments of " the Polite Part of the Town to your In- " ſpection. Believe me, Mr. *Bickerſtaff*, you " will there have no little Occaſion for the " Exerciſe of your Cenſorial Office; as you " will find that Sound, Show, and Grimace " carry the Day ſo entirely againſt good " Senſe and Reaſon, that your old Friend " *Shakeſpear* can ſeldom procure one Name " of Figure to countenance his venerable " Scenes. I will not infringe upon your " Liberty, by preſcribing you any Time; " but whenever you take theſe Matters into " Conſideration, you will oblige one who " is ſtill,

Dear Sir,
Your conſtant Reader,
and Well-wiſher,
EUDOSIA.

P. S. " When you can allow time for a " Female Paper, I deſire you would not " fail of giving us your Determination, how " many Hours a Lady may be allow'd to " beſtow upon the Diverſion of *Quadrille*, " without incurring the danger of coming " within your Bill of Mortality."

I think it has been obſerv'd that a Lady generally ſpeaks her Inclinations the plaineſt in the Poſtſcript to her Letter; and therefore as I am very deſirous to recover her Favour, I ſhall give her a plain Anſwer to her Queſtion in my preſent Paper: and then I hope ſhe will allow me to defer the other Affair, till the Town begins to fill, and I have an opportunity of making myſelf more entirely Maſter of the Caſe, when I promiſe not to fail of entring upon it.

HAD it not been for my Friend *Pacolet* and my Siſter, the Word *Quadrille* had been a Myſtery to me; but they both took care to inform me how great a part it bears in every Aſſembly: Nay, poor *Jenny* has taken ſuch pains to let me into the Nature of the Game, that I am almoſt qualified to ſet down at a Table, and make one amongſt them. But I muſt not ramble from my Queſtion; and in order to give the better Anſwer to it, I ſhall enquire a little into the meaning of the Word *Diverſion*; and I hope the Ladies will excuſe a little Piece of Pedantry on the Subject, as they will find I employ all the Learning I make uſe of for their Service. This Word, I muſt confeſs, in the days when I firſt came into the World, was made uſe of only to expreſs the Time that was ſpent in ſome little Amuſement, to unbend the Mind, when it had been fatigu'd and tir'd with Buſineſs, with a deſign to enable it to return to its more ſerious Employment with freſh Strength and Vigour. But this is the old-faſhion'd Signification of the Word; and in this Politer Age it is moſt indiſputably underſtood to denote any ſort of Pleaſure, in which we place our greateſt Satisfaction, and employ the chiefeſt part of our Time. I can here very pertinently obſerve that the Derivation of the Word ſeems abſolutely to favour the modern Senſe that is put upon it: for the *Latin* Word *Diverto*, from whence it was taken, plainly ſignifies to turn wholly from one thing to another; and therefore the Subſtantive that comes from it, muſt very properly expreſs our forſaking Buſineſs, to give ourſelves wholly up to Pleaſure.

I might alſo make uſe of an Obſervation of my Siſter *Jenny*'s, in favour of this darling Game, *viz.* that ſince it has been ſo much in Faſhion, there is not half the Scandal and Quarrels in the Female World as before. But tho' this is, I believe, a very juſt Remark, yet I ſhall lay no ſtreſs upon it; as it may be turn'd to the Diſadvantage of the Fair Sex, and give an Handle to inſinuate that they are ſuch a ſort of Creatures, that, like Children, they want to be ſet down to Puſh-Pin, to keep them out of Miſchief. In oppoſition to this, I will maintain that their Underſtandings are generally to the full as good as ours, and their Diſpoſitions much better: and therefore in my Determination of this Affair, I muſt take care not to affront their Capacity on the one hand, as well as not to encroach too much upon their Pleaſures on the other.

I deſire therefore they would firſt take the neceſſary Articles of Sleeping, Dreſſing, and Eating out of the Account: and I ſhall then very freely allow them (which I think will be pretty fair on both ſides) to ſpend half of the remaining Time in their Favourite Diverſion of *Quadrille*.

P. S. At the Requeſt of an honeſt well-meaning Friend, I have order'd what follows to be publiſhed.

A Cure for the preſent Diſeaſe among the Horſes.

Gum Ammoniacum, *Elicampane Roots*, and *Liquorice*, freſh powder'd, of each four Ounces; *Moloſſus*, as much as is ſufficient to make a ſtiff Maſs.

Give three Balls, of the bigneſs of a Walnut, every Night and Morning, and waſh them down with a Pint of ſoft, warm Ale.

Let them drink nothing but *warm Water* with a little *ſcalded Bran*, and eat no Corn but *ſcalded Barley*.

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